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## Vision Cashiers July progress steps

1 message

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# VISION CASHIERS

## *“Improving Tomorrow...Today”*

### July 2019 update

We’ve made significant progress so far this summer. We now have 840 residents following what we are trying to do to improve issues in Cashiers. 220 are engaged in one or more of the task forces. If you have a desire to engage in any of them, just let us know. To see more about each look at our website, [www.visioncashiers.com](http://www.visioncashiers.com).

We want to thank the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors for their generosity in giving our task forces and the board their conference room facilities for all our meetings.

Here is a brief summary of what is happening with each initiative now:

- **Education-** Dr. Joy Clark, leader- 36 participants
  - Continuing efforts are being made to expand **collaboration** between the schools
  - Jill Keith and Dianne Tuttle reengaged in promoting the Ingles “**Tools for Schools**” program. Remember to sign up at Ingles for this as a percentage of your purchases go to your designated school

- The **information brochure** about all the area schools was finalized and printed. We distributed it to all the area realtors to hand out to any interested purchasers of property
- The Task Force decided to sponsor another **College Financial Aid Dinner** for Blue Ridge Early College. The Task Force is going to use the Myers Briggs inventory for students to help them identify their strengths.
- Joy Clark stated that all of the five schools are now connected to the **Chamber of Commerce website**, thanks to Rick Robson.
- Mary Jo Mayfield reported that **Junior Achievement personal economics program** was completed with 11<sup>th</sup> graders at Blue Ridge Early College. She and Joy are in the process of reviewing the end of course surveys and making plans for next year.
- Rick Robson spoke with students who planned to apply for scholarships about **Interviewing Skills** in March, just before the interviews began.
- **The Middle School Career Conference** was a great success and we will hold it again next year at CCSV.
- The task force submitted a **Grant Application to the Wade Hampton Donor Advised Fund**
- **CCSV sponsors a charity event** each year. The task force was able to convince them to make Blue Ridge School and Blue Ridge Early College Foundation and Summit Charter School Foundation to receive the proceeds of the fundraiser.
- It is working on creating a **summer math program** next year. Math test scores are the lowest for both schools and are in the 40's. Hopefully, the program will be paid for by the Wade Hampton grant and start next summer through the Boys and Girls Club.
- **Health/Wellness-** Dr. Walter Clark, leader- now 67 participants (41 are physicians)
  - We have created **multiple work clusters** within this large group and some are already working:
    - **Blue Zones-** the task force supported the presentation made in Highlands and it was a sell out with resulting enthusiasm. Sallie Taylor is leading the effort to create a Blue Zone for Macon and Jackson counties
    - **Physician and nurse recruiting-** Dr. Scott Strohecker leads the group actively working to recruit doctors for the Cashiers clinic. If you know of a candidate please email us.
    - **Foundation Health Park-** the group is working to build a case for support by HCA and it will be presented on July 15th. If they commit, they would be the "anchor tenant" in the park. Other interested tenants have shown significant interest.
    - Potential services:
      - **Tel-A-Doc-** proposal being made to provide this immediate medical service to the entire region at minimal cost, perhaps as low as \$100 per year per family.

- **Community Housing-** John Franklin, leader assisted by Linda Benge & Turner Inscoe- 29 participants
  - Working to identify a site to build **duplexes** for full time workers (Teachers, Nurses, full time Managers). Two are under consideration.
  - Securing commitments from employers to **guarantee leases and expenses**.
  - **Capital-** we may have identified an investor group who will provide the capital.
  
- **Workforce Development-** Susan San Souci leader, 17 participants
  - **Alliance with Western Carolina-** continuing to develop our alliance with the university. It is intending to create classes in Hospitality, Construction and Interior Design in time for the fall semester. Could include classes on Parks & Recreation Management as well as Sports Management
  - Created an alliance with the Chamber of Commerce and 6 area high schools as far as Franklin to **create education sessions** informing the students of the work opportunities in Cashiers
  
- **Technology-** Craig Moore, leader, Jim Allen & Danny Bottoms assisting- 17 participants
  - **Broadband-** Expect to enter into negotiations with a key supplier to create broadband access for HOAs in Cashiers.
  - Committed to create a **WIFI district** for the Cashiers commercial area. Interviewing contractors to install and service. Also applying for a \$50,000 grant to pay for the initial installation.
  
- **Natural Resources-** Maggie Carton, leader, 32 participants
  - Committed to taking over the “**Ramble**”, **upgrading and expanding it**, Applied to the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation for a \$25,000 grant to create a master plan and perform the initial work of clean up and repair.
  - Working to create committed groups to take on **periodic clean-up of the main highways**. So far the following entities have agreed:
    - the Chamber of Commerce
    - the Rotary Club
    - the Board of Realtors

- Working with property owners and the county to create a greenway/pathway plan for Cashiers.
- **Crime Prevention-** Jim Sacha, leader, 13 participants
  - Sent the fifth of **5 key messages** to the community. This campaign was designed to get property owners to take responsibility for the prevention of crime. Please focus on doing the things we suggested, for your own protection.
- **Pedestrian Safety** - Don Jehle- 36 participants
  - Focused on the first phase of **sidewalks**. Survey and engineering is complete. County agreed to assume liability and maintenance.
  - Big progress on **owners agreeing to pay**. Look for some press praising the owners who agreed to do so.

If you know of others who would be interested in engaging in any of these initiatives please have them contact me. A reminder- this is about doing things, not just talking about it. We look forward to showing some very concrete results.

Sincerely,

*Paul*

*For Vision Cashiers*

Paul Robshaw

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